

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MILAN 01964 231806Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 /028 W
----- 105330

R 231303Z OCT 75
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4325
AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MILAN 1964

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR
SUBJECT: VISIT TO U.S. OF PIERO BASSETTI NOV. 11-23, 1975

REF MILAN 1946

1. BASSETTI TRAVELLING U.S. HIS OWN EXPENSE TO MEET WITH CFR
NY, SPEAK AT WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL CHICAGO AND VISIT PROF. GUIDO
GOLDMAN AT HARVARD, INTER ALIA. ALSO WISHES SPEND TWO DAYS IN WASH-
INGTON (NOV. 17-18) TO GAIN MAXIMUM UNDERSTANDING U.S. THINKING ABOUT
WESTERN EUROPE AND ITALY AS WELL AS GET FELL FOR U.S. ECONOMIC
OUTLOOK. HAS ASKED IF WE COULD SUGGEST AND ARRANGE APPROPRIATE
CONTACTS.

2. IN LIGHT HIS INTERESTS, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT SEEKING
APPOINTMENTS WITH FOLLOWING IN WASHINGTON AND/OR WITH OTHERS
WHOM DEPARTMENT BELIEVES DESIRABLE.

A. DEPARTMENT : 1) SECRETARY KISSINGER. BASSETTI MET
SECRETARY DURING 1974 IN DEPT. AND MENTIONED THAT SECRETARY
HAD DINED AT HIS HOME SOMETIME IN PAST.

2) COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT - MET IN 1974
3) ASST. SECRETARY HARTMAN - MET IN 1974
4) MR. WINSTON LORD, DIRECTOR, S/PC, HAS MET.

B. CONGRESS: 1) SEN. CHURCH - BASSETT HAS MET
2) SEN. MATHIAS - BASSETTI HAS MET
3) SEN. HUMPHREY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MILAN 01964 231806Z

NOTE THAT BASSETTI WELL KNOWN TO JOHN REILLY, HUMPHREY'S

FORMER STAFF DIRECTOR BUT DOES NOT KNOW SENATOR.

- 4) SEN. PERCY
- 5) SEN. JAVITS
- 6) CONG. BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL
- 7) CONG. LEE HAMILTON
- 8) CONG. LEO J. RYAN
- 9) CONG. WILLIAM S. COHEN

C. BROOKINGS: HENRY OWEN

D. GEORGETOWN: DAVID ABSHIRE.

3. BASSETTI IS WEALTHY TEXTILE OWNER AND ONE OF PRINCIPAL MOVERS IN EFFORTS MODERNIZE AND STRENGTHEN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. ATTENDED COLGATE, FORMER TRACK MEMBER ITALIAN OLYMPIC TEAM SPEAKS ENGLISH. BASSETTI IS COMBINATION BIG THINK INTELLECTUAL AND PRACTITIONER OF GOVERNMENT. LAST PUBLIC OFFICE WAS AS PRESIDENT OF REGION OF LOMBARDY FROM WHICH HE RESIGNED IN 1974 TO GIVE FULL TIME TO REVITALIZING DC. AS PRESIDENT OF REGION, BASSETTI INJECTED GREAT IMAGINATION AND DYNAMISM INTO CREATION REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND GOT NEWLY EMPOWERED REGION ON TRACKS. ACCUSTOMED TO BEING SURROUNDED BY BRAIN TRUST, BASSETTI IS ALSO WHEELER-DEALER ADEPT IN INTRICACIES OF ITALIAN CATHOLIC POLITICS.

4. AS MENTIONED MILAN'S 1946 BASSETTI WANTS LAY CATHOLIC MASS PARTY ABLE TO APPEAL TO WIDE SPECTRUM OF VOTERS AND FEARS LIMITING DC TO CLERICAL ELECTORATE. HE HAS BEEN ONE OF MOST CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICS OF CORRUPTION, DC LOSS OF CONTACT WITH PUBLIC, POOR ADMINISTRATION AND CATHOLIC EXTREMISTS OF BOTH CLERICAL RIGHT AND CLERICAL LEFT.

5. ALTHOUGH BASSETTI IS EXCEEDINGLY WELL INFORMED AND WELL READ, HE TENDS TO HAVE INTELLECTUAL PRECONCEPTIONS ABOUT U.S. THAT MAKE HIM RATHER SKEPTICAL ABOUT U.S. COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ABROAD AND DUBIOUS THAT WE CAN REALLY UNDERSTAND EUROPE - MUCH LESS ITALY. HIS OWN ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR MASS CATHOLIC LAY PARTY OCCUPYING REAL CENTER OF ITALIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM, WHICH IS LEFT OF PRESENT DC, DEPENDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MILAN 01964 231806Z

IN PART UPON HIS UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. INTENTIONS AND THINKING. AND SINCE BASSETTI IS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE ITALIAN ESTABLISHMENT, HE WANTS TO HEAR AT FIRST HAND THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP. HIS VISIT THEREFORE PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF THE ITALIAN ELITE OUR THINKING ON CENTRAL PROBLEMS OF COMMON CONCERN. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE DIRECT ANALYSIS OF THE ITALIAN

SITUATION FROM A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED AND ANTI-COMMUNIST
DEMOCRATIC LEADER OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF CATHOLICS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF DEPARTMENT'S WILLINGNESS
TO SET UP WASHINGTON PROGRAM, NAME OF PERSON WHOM BASSETTI
SHOULD CONTACT AND PART OF PROGRAM THAT CAN BE PROVIDED
HIM BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM ITALY NOVEMBER 11. WILL
CABLE NAME WASHINGTON HOTEL WHERE BASSETTI STAYING NOV.
16, 17 AND 18. ONLY ENGAGEMENT AT PRESENT IS DINNER WITH
DI SCIULLO, INR, NOV. 18 AT 7:30 PM.

7. ITINERARY FOLLOWS:

NOV. 11 - LEAVE MILAN ARRIVE NY EVENING SAME DAY

NOV. 12, 13 AND 14 UNTIL NOON - MEETINGS AT CFR NY

NOV. 14 AND 15 NY - FREE

NOV. 16 - ARRIVE WASHINGTON

NOV. 17 AND 18 - WASHINGTON

NOV. 19 LEAVE WASHINGTON FOR BOSTON EARLY MORNING

NOV. 19/23 - BOSTON AND CHICAGO

NOV. 23 - RETURN TO ITALY.FINA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, ITINERARY, POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MILAN01964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750369-0661
From: MILAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751024/aaaaavrg.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MILAN 1946
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO U.S. OF PIERO BASSETTI NOV. 11-23, 1975
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, XG, IT, US, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, (BASSETTI, PIERO)
To: STATE ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006